

path, and be fearless. Encourage others: do not discourage. As to fashions, he would not despise or disregard them; the architect was bound to satisfy public wants; his object should be to give them the right form and direction.

At the meeting on the 16th (already referred to) Earl de Grey presented the medals, &c., awarded during the session,—viz., the Royal Gold Medal of the Institute to Signor Canina; the Silver Medal to Mr. Wyatt Papworth; and a book to Mr. Thomas Hill for the best series of sketches. There being no representative of Signor Canina present, the medal was placed in the hands of the foreign secretary to be sent to Rome.

Our own opinion of this uncalled-for and ill-judged award has been too strongly expressed to allow us to record its consummation quite silently. We have the satisfaction of knowing that a large body of the members take the same view of it as ourselves.

With reference to the medals not awarded, the president urged on the younger men of the profession the necessity for exertion, and expressed his desire, that the council would always be rigorous in requiring essays and drawings of ability.* To Mr. Lamb, a fellow student of Mr. Hill, who received the prize for him in his absence, the president, who loves a quiet joke, said,—that he hoped the Hill would become a mountain, and the Lamb a full-grown sheep, browsing on Parnassus.

A communication from Sir Gardner Wilkinson was read, relating to the origin and early use of the pointed arch; and afterwards the president read a paper descriptive of the excavations now proceeding at Fountains Abbey, under his direction. Fountains has been a show place for years, but nothing had been done there, and the wood around it was so thick that little could be seen. The Earl has had a portion of this removed, so as to give access to the structure. The new building discovered is to the south-east of the church, and is supposed to be the abbot's house. It includes a hall 167 feet long and 60 feet 10 inches wide, in three aisles, and an oratory 46 feet by 23 feet, and has this peculiarity, that the greater part of it is built over the river upon arches.†

The Dean of Westminster, in the course of some antiquarian chat which followed, suggested the publication of those few parts of Westminster Abbey which are known to be Saxon. The dean said that the side walls of the Westminster School (amongst other things) are of this period, and that the only remnant of the Saxon Church which preceded the present structure is an arch in the west side of the

south transept. On the maxim *Ex pede Herculem*, the size and character of the building might be judged.—And then with multitudinous applaudings and much smoke if not fire, the session closed for 1849.

In concluding our notice, we would remind the council that they have a serious work to do, and that we look to them to do it properly. The members at their last annual meeting came unanimously to the resolution, that an inquiry into the present position of the Institute was most essential, and that means should be sought to enlarge its scope and increase its usefulness. The resolution was in these words:—

"That it seems to this general meeting most desirable that the present position and prospects of this Institute of British Architects should be inquired into by the council,—because it appears to them that, after the period which has elapsed since its original foundation, it is desirable that a strict review should take place, in order to ascertain to what extent the view of its original founders has been carried out, viz., that of 'cultivating its many branches of science, and diffusing the knowledge of the principles of architecture, with credit to its members and with advantage to the noble art which they have the honour to profess'; also to inquire if any, and what, changes in the bye-laws may be desirable to enlarge the scope of the Institute and increase its usefulness. That this meeting, in confiding this inquiry to the council, feel satisfied that it will receive at their hands all the attention its importance deserves; and the meeting further beg to assure the council of their anxious co-operation in this most important subject."

The main object of those who moved and supported this resolution was the alteration of bye-law 21, which puts prominently among the grounds for the expulsion of any fellow or associate,—“for having engaged since his election in the measurement, valuation, or estimation of any works, undertaken or proposed to be undertaken by any building artificer, except such as are proposed to be executed, or have been executed, under the member's own designs or directions, except as referee or arbitrator.” This regulation, as narrow, injurious, and unjust as it is impolitic, has given a reputation of exclusiveness to the institute which has been even more extensively hurtful than the prohibition itself. It is contrary to the spirit of the age, and opposed to common sense. Many of those now standing high in the profession were enabled in early life by measuring and estimating to stand their ground and pursue their studies, and but for this must have succumbed. We would even go beyond saying that no hinderance to measuring should be thrown in the way of the young practitioner struggling forward into position, and assert that great advantage results from it, in the knowledge of construction and the acquaintance with materials and prices, which are best gained so. For the preservation of the respectability of the institute, there is the ballot. If the applicant be not a man of probity, education, and respectability, black-ball him; but to say that simply because he measures work for artificers,—because, for example, placed in a country town, where positively there is not architectural practice enough to maintain him in respectability, he acts as a surveyor also,—seems to us, as we said before, as narrow and unjust as it is impolitic in a financial point of view. The argument that, being occasionally employed by the tradesman, the architect is less likely to do his duty when employed by the proprietor, is suicidal when used by any in the profession. They would not say that because a barrister acted yesterday for a plaintiff, he is not likely to act efficiently for a defendant to-morrow? Why should they entertain a worse opinion of the members of their own profession?

CONSTRUCTION OF DRYING CLOSETS.

As at this time much attention is directed to the best arrangements for drying closets, I send you the following observations upon the subject, feeling that the results of experience, though ever so limited in amount, when thrown into the mass of information now accumulating, whether they make for or against our preconceived theories, are the best helps to the perfecting the matter in question. Annexed are drawings to illustrate the subject. They are reduced from working drawings of one in constant use for the last seven years, and of which closet I append the following report, copied from a certificate of its working, made to the order of a Board of Guardians:—

Fuel consumed, including lighting.	Cost of Fuel.	Lighted 9.	Thermometer.
Wood	1d.	half-past 9	64°
Coals, 14 lbs.	1d.	half-past 10	132°
Coke, 1 cwt., at 21s. per chaldron ..	1s. 3d.	half-past 11	182°
		half-past 12	208°

The hourly consumption of fuel subsequent to the attaining this degree of heat is of course under control by those in management, and bears but a small proportion to it.

Memorandum.—It therefore cost 1s. 5d. to produce 208 degrees of heat, which heat is more than is required even for the coarsest sheets. The above heat was produced so gradually as not to make the exterior ironwork red-hot, nor even the internal neck of the stove, which has generally been when worked by the laundry women. I saw ninety-eight sheets put on the horses all at once, and the laundry-women have dried sheets in ten minutes, which I shall not allow, as I consider it drying fast enough to be able to clear the first horse by the time the seventh is filled and closed, which it will do.

(Signed)

I would make an observation respecting the capacity of a drying closet, to the effect that it is not enough alone to enumerate its cubic contents, as appears usual, for although one closet may be to another as two to one, yet as such only the same may show a fallacious result.

The lineal dimensions of the drying rail, will, I would submit, show the best comparison taken in connection with the times such capacity is available for repetition of use, as instance the foregoing example—600 feet being its cubic content—might have been fitted with only 300 feet run of rail, instead of upwards of 500, as is the case. Yet these cubic dimensions suffice fully to furnish ample lineal room to evaporate the moisture with rapidity, enough to enable them to unload the first horse when the seventh is filled. Although not so good a test, a comparison may be stated by the quantities of water evaporated in the same times, but as lineal room is the means whereon the wetted surfaces are exposed, it consequently will be the best measure of value in relation to the power of the surfaces presenting the heat.

I will now observe, in few words, respecting the ventilation of drying closet, which is the topic more immediately under notice, and will say little more than recapitulate results of experience. The first large closet I erected was heated by a dry, or furnace heat, through a metal flue, as distinguished from the application of heat transmitted through the means of steam or water, and in size was nearly one-half larger than that referred to above, the cubic contents being rather over 960 feet. An external or cold-air drain was formed with a transverse section of 5 superficial feet and furnished with a throttle valve, its mouth directly opening upon the heating surfaces, which were in themselves ample in quantity but were not under the drying closet, so that the clothes were not acted upon by any radiant heat but wholly by the current of heated air. A large tubular air or steam passage was constructed in the roof of the closet, communicating with the chimney. The heating surfaces were exposed to the full length of the closet, but dependent for effect wholly upon the air drain before described to carry the heat forward and upward into it. Upon the first trial, after firing briskly for 8 hours, the closet could not be raised higher than 114°. The upper or exit valve, having an area of 160 square inches, being only one-third

* The following passage on this subject, from the report of the council, is worth quoting:—"The council have observed with deep concern the absence of that spirit of noble emulation which should stimulate the junior member of the profession to strive for distinction in the acquisition of those prizes offered to his ambition by the Institute: he should reflect that the seal of approbation, stamped by the rewards of this body, is an honour that must accompany him through life. A medal from this Institute is a title to the respect of the public and of his professional brethren: the very energies he exerts to be worthy of that distinction, are invigorated by the praiseworthy effort to merit the approval of his seniors. The wide range of thought to be taken, the studies to be pursued, the monuments to be investigated, the elevation of ideas and of imagination, required to qualify himself for the important struggle, must have influence upon his future standing in the profession, even if not immediately successful. He should never be satisfied until he is crowned by success, and has grasped those honours which the generous encouragement of his seniors holds out to his enthusiasm and perseverance. Nothing less than the utmost concentration of purpose and unswerving application can qualify a man to be an architect, and enable the laborious student to acquire the mass of learning, the perfect mastery of the pencil, that acquaintance with construction, that familiarity with the mineral and vegetable worlds and with the laws of mechanics, which are requisite to ensure future reputation and success."

† On the 31st of June Mr. M. H. Bloxam read a paper on "Conventual Arrangements," before the Bedfordshire Architectural Society, containing references to Fountains Abbey, &c. It is given in *extenso* in the *Bedford Times*, and might interest Earl de Grey, who is seeking information.